

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9992

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 070

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, XG, FR

SUBJECT: PROMINENT GAULLIST SUPPORTS GISCARD ON SEATING
FOR EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

1. GAULLIST "BARON" AND FORMER MINISTER OLIVIER GUI-
CHARD HAS ANNOUNCED HIS SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT GISCARD
D'ESTAING'S PROPOSAL, MADE AT APRIL 1-2 EC SUMMIT, THAT
CURRENT NATIONAL REPRESENTATION BE RETAINED IN A FUTURE
POPULARLY-ELECTED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. SPEAKING BEFORE
THE MOVEMENT FOR SOCIALISM THROUGH PARTICIPATION, A
PROGRESSIVE GAULLIST GROUPING, GUICHARD CHARACTERIZED
THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL AS A "STEP IN THE RIGHT
DIRECTION." HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS A
DEPARTURE FROM PREVIOUS FRENCH POLICY WHICH HAD VIEWED
STRICTLY PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION AS THE ONLY
EQUITABLE CONFIGURATION FOR AN ELECTED BODY. HE WEL-

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COMED THE SWITCH IN POLICY, WHICH HE TERMED "OPPORTUNE."

2. DURING QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD WHICH FOLLOWED HIS PRESENTATION, GUICHARD WAS ASKED HOW HIS STATEMENTS SQUARED WITH PREVIOUS GAULLIST POLICY (PARIS 7803) WHICH DEMANDED STRICT PROPORTIONALITY, AS BASIS FOR DETERMINATION OF NATIONAL EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION. GUICHARD'S ANSWER DOWNPLAYED THE REPRESENTATIONAL ISSUE. INSISTENCE ON STRICT PROPORTIONALITY, HE SAID, COULD LEAD TO JUST WHAT THE GAULLISTS FEARED -- A SITUATION IN WHICH IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT THE POWERS OF THE PARLIAMENT SHOULD BE INCREASED OWING TO ITS STATUS AS A BODY TRULY REFLECTING "THE PEOPLE'S WILL".

3. COMMENT: GUICHARD'S "CAN'T HAVE YOUR CAKE..." ANALYSIS OF THE NATIONAL REPRESENTATION ISSUE MAY BE BECOMING INCREASINGLY FASHIONABLE IN GAULLIST CIRCLES. IN RECENT WEEKS, SEVERAL COMMENTATORS HAVE POINTED OUT THAT INSISTENCE ON ABSOLUTE PROPORTIONALITY COULD WELL BRING ABOUT DEMANDS FOR INCREASED POWERS FOR THE PARLIAMENT, SOMETHING WHICH THE GAULLISTS WISH TO AVOID AT ALL COSTS. WHILE GUICHARD IS OFTEN SOMEWHAT AHEAD OF HIS UDR COMPATRIOTS ON EUROPEAN MATTERS, AND HARDLINE CRITICS SUCH AS MICHEL DEBRE WILL PROBABLY BE LEFT COLD BY HIS LOGIC, HIS STATEMENTS TEND TO REINFORCE OFFICIAL OPTIMISM (PARIS 10269) INDICATING THAT GISCARD WILL HAVE MORE LEEWAY ON THE DOMESTIC FRONT TO PUSH FOR A FINAL DECISION ON THE ISSUE AT THE NEXT EC SUMMIT.
RUSH

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